

THE Lectures in the College of Physicians and Surgeons in the city of New-York, commence on the first Monday of November of each year.

The expense of attending a complete course of Lectures by all the Professors, including the matriculation fee of five dollars, is 105 dollars.

The matriculation fee entitles the student to the use of the College Library.

#### GRADUATION.

Attendance upon two complete courses of Lectures is necessary to entitle the student to present himself for graduation, one of which must have been attended at this College. He must also have studied medicine three years, if classical studies have been attended to for the space of one year after the age of sixteen years; and four years if they have not. He must also have attained the age of twenty-one years.

Two opportunities in each year are afforded for graduation: one on the first Tuesday of April, and one on the last Tuesday of October.

The graduation fee is twenty-five dollars.

27

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TO THE  
HONORABLE THE LEGISLATURE  
OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK,  
IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY CONVENED:

THE  
**M E M O R I A L**

✓  
OF THE  
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS,  
*IN THE CITY OF NEW-YORK.*

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[ 1816 ]

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# MEMORIAL, &c.

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To the Honorable the Legislature of the State  
of New-York, in Senate and Assembly convened,

*The MEMORIAL of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, in the City of New-York—*

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:—

THAT your Memorialists would not at this time obtrude on your time or attention, unless the duty they owe to the Legislature, under whose act they constitute a corporation, closely connected with the public health, had, as they conceive, indispensably called on them to expose the reasons why the interests of medical education in this State would be injuriously affected, if the prayer of a certain memorial and petition presented to your honorable body, by Archibald Bruce, M. D. John Watts, M. D. and certain other gentlemen their associates, should unhappily obtain your sanction. Once, already, your Memorialists were under the necessity of addressing you, against a similar petition, and they hoped, the luminous report of a Committee of the Senate which condemned it, would have forever prevented a renewal of the like attempts: Nevertheless, the association of Physicians denominating themselves the *Medical Institution of New-York*, address you again, for an act of incorporation. But the practice of all nations, shews the impropriety of incorporating two medical schools, in the same city, and that the advancement of medical science is best promoted by the establishment of only one. In the great cities of Edinburgh, Dublin, Paris, Vienna, &c. there is but one in each. The history also of the medical school of Philadelphia, which never flourished until

the two opposing schools were united into one, as they are at present, affords a further and striking illustration of the same principle: And lastly, it is proved by the rapidly growing importance of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New-York, since its amalgamation with the faculty of Physic of Columbia College.

The gentlemen styling themselves the Medical Institution of New-York, so early as the year 1811, arrayed themselves in opposition to this college. At that time, as appears by their circular address, they professed to rely on their individual zeal and labour, disdaining the patronage of the sovereign and the authority of the Legislature.\* Let them hold to this pledge, and the College of Physicians and Surgeons will behold, without alarm or concern, their best exertions to be useful to themselves or others.

Those gentlemen, as appears from their publications, belong to the faculty of medicine of Queen's College, in New-Jersey. It would, therefore, be most reasonable in them, to demand rather of that State the privileges they solicit from New-York. At the same time, that under any view of the subject, it must appear a most extraordinary proceeding in citizens of this State, to come before your honorable body with a prayer to give them legislative facilities for erecting a school of Physic without the jurisdiction of the Regents of our own University, and under the controul of the authorities of New-Jersey.

Those gentlemen had set out upon the plan of instructing, gratuitously, one student of medicine from each county in the State; but now, it seems, they find reason to lament the want of an *act of incorporation* and of an *adequate fund*. Yet as they entered upon their undertaking, from motives which we forbear to enquire, and altogether without appointment from the University, if the speculation of delivering gratuitous lectures has disappointed them; if they find the charge irksome and unprofitable, the remedy is very simple and rests entirely with them.

\* See the annexed Document A.



selves—They may desist, as they began, of their own accord, and retire from difficulties which they encountered without necessity.

Moreover, should a call upon the Legislature, of the nature of that now made by those gentlemen, be encouraged in one instance, there is no reason why an hundred similar ones may not be repeated. Any new number of physicians may, with the same propriety as those gentlemen, associate together, issue advertisements that they will teach gratuitously, and after some time, come before the Legislature, applying for an act of incorporation, and soliciting funds to enable them to accomplish their useful purpose.

*Self-created* medical institutions of this kind require but slight patronage to spring up, whenever the good opinion which a few gentlemen entertain of their own talents shall induce them to assume the office and character of Professors. Their task is also very easy; for they are accountable to nobody for whatever they do, or what they neglect. Far different is the spirit in which the College of Physicians and Surgeons is founded under the sanction of the Legislature. It is committed to the superintendence of the most eminent and learned permanent body in the State, the Regents of the University, who appoint to vacancies, exact an annual account of the state of studies, and can afford the best assurance, that this part of the public education shall be prosecuted with all the attention due to its great importance.\*

The lure held out by those gentlemen, of taking students for nothing, must necessarily be a temporary expedient. The persons who offer could not continue it but to their own loss. If it afforded them any advantage, this must result solely from the injury it might inflict on the College of Physicians; and yet this species of illiberal success would not make those gentlemen gain, though it should make

\* For the state and progress of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, see the Annual Reports of the Regents of the University, recorded in the Journals of the Legislature.

others lose. Eleemosynary education requires to be managed with great delicacy in a free State; because it is all important that the dignified spirit of independence and equality be not disparaged. The means of a gratuitous education must come from the hands of the State alone, and where this is not done, it will be found a smaller evil, that some few ingenuous youths be debarred from going to the University, than that any free citizen should be degraded.

To be an able Professor in any department of medicine, requires several years of preparation and study, no less than constant diligence to keep up with the rapid improvements and discoveries, which manifest the zeal with which science is cultivated in our times. This continued devotion demands the contribution of much time, money and assiduity, and unless talents and industry, when thus employed, can procure to their possessor the ordinary rewards of diligence in other professions, the occupation of a Professor will be deserted by men the best qualified to do it honour. With us, therefore, where the remuneration of the Professor is solely derived from the fees of Pupils, professions of affording gratuitous instruction should be discountenanced as disingenuous in their design, and tending at last to lower the medical profession and prejudice medical science.

Your Memorialists, therefore pray, that the memorial and petition of Archibald Bruce, M. D. John Watts, M. D. and others their associates, be dismissed, or their bill rejected, as being in no wise conducive to the public good, and in no respect called for; but indeed contrary to the interests of Medicine and Surgery in this State.

By order and in behalf of the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

SAMUEL BARD, M. D. PRESIDENT.

B. DE WITT, M. D. VICE PRESIDENT.

*New-York, March 25th, 1816.*

## DOCUMENT A.

Extract from the Circular of the Medical Institution of the State of New-York, published, New-York, Sept. 24, 1811.

“The history of learning in every age sufficiently demonstrates, that the advancement of the Arts and Sciences has been promoted more by the zeal and labour of individuals, than BY THE PATRONAGE OF MONARCHS, OR THE ORDINANCES OF LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY. The benefits which have resulted to medical science by the unassisted and almost insulated efforts of individuals, are known to every physician conversant with the history of his profession.”

## DOCUMENT B.

Proceedings of the Senate of the State of New-York, in 1815, relative to the application of the Medical Institution for an act of incorporation.

Mr. *Cochran*, from the select committee to whom was committed the engrossed bill, from the honorable the Assembly, entitled “an act to incorporate the trustees of the medical institution of the state of New-York,” reported as follows, to wit:—

That the preamble to the bill states, “that Archibald Bruce, and others, have been for several years associated for the purpose of giving instruction in all the branches of medical science, and have for that purpose, selected skilful lecturers and provided a suitable building, together with chemical and philosophical apparatus, anatomical preparations, and other things necessary to accomplish the end they have in view; and therefore pray to be incorporated.”

The objects stated in the preamble, to be carried into effect by the provisions of the bill, are undoubtedly laudable; and if the attainment of them by the means proposed, were not inconsistent with that general system of education adopted by our laws and the interests of established institutions, your com-



mittee could see no objection to the bill which they have had under consideration.

The various laws which have been passed since the revolutionary war, to promote the diffusion of literature and science throughout the state, while they disclose difficulties, evince at the same time, the strong solicitude which our legislature have always felt on the subject. Without a particular reference to these acts, it will only be necessary for the present, in order to form a more correct opinion of the matter submitted to your committee, to give a short history of the origin and progress of the medical institutions in this state.

In the year 1792, the board of trustees of Columbia College, organized a medical faculty connected with the college, and professors of distinguished talents were appointed to deliver lectures on the different branches of Medicine. Though the annexation of such a faculty deserved commendation, yet, for causes not necessary to mention here, the benefits arising from it were very limited—only 34 students since its creation to the year 1811, had completed their courses of study and received the medical honours of the institution.

By an act passed as early as the year 1791, power was given to the Regents of the University of the state, to establish a college of physicians and surgeons within the state. Believing that only one medical institution in the city of New-York, with power to confer degrees, sanctioned by authority, and conducted with ability and attention, would best promote the advancement of medical science, the Regents were unwilling to exercise the power vested in them by said act. Considerations of expediency, however, affecting the interests of science, as well as other interests arising from causes not implicating the distinguished gentlemen filling the different professorships in this medical school, determined that honorable body on the 12th of March, 1807, to grant a charter, establishing the present college of physicians and surgeons of the city of New-York. The incorporation of this institution, under the patron-

age of the Regents, and its sanction by the Legislature, gave very general satisfaction, and the benefits which have resulted from it during the period of its existence, are to be seen in the annual reports to the Regents of the University. Its successful progress was, however, for a short time, retarded by feuds and discontents among the professional members of the institution and of others, arising principally from competition and rivalry between medical schools in the same city, whose objects were the same. It was, therefore, deemed advisable by the Regents, to whom representations of these disorders had been made, to re-model the college of physicians, and this was accordingly done on the first of April, 1811, ingrafting alterations upon their charter, principally with a view to their union with the medical Faculty of Columbia College. This union was finally and happily effected at the last session of the Regents, in 1814, and to the satisfaction of all concerned; and the United School now combines the most eminent medical talents in the state in one splendid seminary, under the general superintendence of the honorable the Regents, aided by the patronage and liberal endowments of the Legislature.

It is not now deemed necessary to state particularly any additional facts with regard to the Medical College of New-York. How extensive is the system of medical education which it embraces, will be fully understood when the committee make it known that complete courses of instruction are provided for in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, in the city of New-York, on anatomy, surgery and physiology; on the theory and practice of physic and clinical medicine; on chemistry; on materia medica; on the principles and practice of surgery; on the clinical practice of medicine; on midwifery and the diseases of women and children; on natural history; on medical jurisprudence; and on natural philosophy, by able professors appointed for the purpose.

After perceiving so many difficulties, and so many impediments to harmony, at length removed by the

united efforts and exertions of the Regents of the University, and of some eminent professional gentlemen, connected with the then medical institutions in the city of New-York, that your committee should countenance the application before them, would be to renew the like misunderstandings and the like dissensions, which have hitherto prevailed much to the injury of medical science.

It is of some importance to take into view, on this occasion, the well digested plans contained in our laws, so admirably calculated to promote useful knowledge in the various departments of science.

The act constituting the Regents of the University of the state, gives to that body the right at discretion, under its particular provisions, to incorporate colleges and other seminaries of learning, and a superintending power over them. Being enabled to hold property, real and personal, to the amount of the annual income of 40,000 bushels of wheat, and possessing no inconsiderable funds from the liberality and munificence of the state, its judicious distribution from time to time, among the academies in the different counties, is evidenced by the success which has attended it in the present flourishing state of learning. As a part of this excellent system, the committee recognize the law incorporating medical societies in each county, for the purpose of regulating the practice of physic and surgery. In all this is seen the efforts of the best men and the most enlightened legislators of our country. It has been the work of time, and is the result of much experience.

To incorporate, therefore, by special acts of the Legislature, seminaries of learning, upon the application of private associations, and particularly another medical institution in the city of New-York, would, in the opinion of your committee, by such innovations upon this admirable *structure*, totally derange, if not break down some of our most useful and settled literary establishments. The committee are therefore of opinion, that the bill ought to be rejected.

SENATE—April 11th, 1815.

The Senate then resolved itself into committee of the whole on the engrossed bill, from the honorable the Assembly, entitled "*an act to incorporate the trustees of the medical institution of the state of New York,*" and after some time spent thereon, Mr. President resumed the chair, and Mr. Tibbits, from the said committee, reported, that in proceeding on the said bill, and after the same had been read in the committee,

Mr. Cochran made a motion, that the said bill should be rejected, and it was carried in the affirmative unanimously.

Which he was directed to report to the Senate, and he read the report in his place, and delivered the same in at the table, where it was again read, and agreed to by the Senate.

Thereupon,

*Resolved unanimously, That the said bill be rejected.*